

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 are amended to distinguish over the cited references. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,053,971 ("Wood"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleges that Wood teaches a machining method having all of the features recited in claims 1, 3 and 4. The Patent Office further alleges that Wood teaches that the proper speed and feed rate are set based on the material selected, rotating the chuck in accordance with one or more operations, and that the thickness of the lens is determined and utilized in the instruction set in the program. Applicants respectfully disagree with the patent Office's allegations.

Contrary to the Patent Office's assertion, the meaning of speed and feed rate in Wood is not clear. Wood merely discloses that the lens edging apparatus will automatically set up the proper speed and feed rates for the material selected. See column 10, lines 26-28 of Wood. It is further unclear specifically which process is referred to by this description.

Wood teaches that rough machining, finishing machining, groove carving, and chamfering can be performed by the disclosed apparatus. Wood also teaches that a single multi-insert cutter (corresponding to the revolving machining tool of this application) is driven by a cutter motor 84. See column 4, lines 61-64 of Wood. However, Wood does not teach or suggest that the turning speed of the multi-insert cutter is changed in accordance with the various processes, i.e., rough machining, finishing machining, groove carving, and chamfering. Similarly, Wood does not teach or suggest changing the turning speed of the multi-insert cutter in a specific process. Thus, Applicants submit that the rough machining,

finishing machining, groove carving, and chamfering according to Wood are performed with the turning speed of the revolving machining tool kept constant. In other words, the turning speed of the revolving machining tool is not changed in accordance with any specific process.

Wood further teaches that "the algorithm utilizes the dimensional coordinate data characterizing the size and shape of the lens to be cut and that of the mapped surface together with the type of material prior to an operator beginning the edging process" (see column 8, lines 55-59 of Wood) and that "the computer algorithm control the relative movement of the lens blank in the R-axis direction toward and away from the cutter and the rotation of the chuck holding the lens blank at each appropriate section of the cutter to produce a relative motion between the cutter and lens blank to achieve a lens having a smoothly finished edge" (see column 8, lines 59-65 of Wood). As such, Applicants submit that the "speed" taught by Wood is the turning speed (corresponding to the turning speed of the lens holding shaft of the present application) of the chuck that supports the lens blank. Similarly, Applicants submit that the "feed rate" relates to the relative movement of the lens blank in the R-axis direction. Thus, the turning speed of the multi-insert cutter is not changed, as required in claims 1, 3 and 4.

Specifically, claim 1 requires that a spectacle lens is machined by changing at least one of the turning speed of the revolving machining tool and the turning speed of the lens holding shaft correspondingly to the thickness and material of the spectacle lens to be machined. In contrast, Wood teaches that the lens thickness is used to determine whether or not the thickness of the lens is suited to machining. See column 4, lines 45-55 of Wood. Wood does not teach or suggest that there is a relation between the thickness of the lens and the turning speed.

Wood teaches that (1) the turning speed of the revolving machining tool is not changed in accordance with the thickness and the material of the lens, (2) the turning speed of

the lens holding shaft is not changed in accordance with the thickness and the material of the lens, and (3) the thickness of the lens is used merely to determine whether or not the lens is suited to machining. Applicants thus submit that Wood does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 requires that when groove carving is performed, the spectacle lens is machined by changing the turning speed of the revolving machining tool or by changing both of the turning speed of the revolving machining tool and the turning speed of the lens holding shaft. In contrast, Wood teaches that when the groove carving is performed, the turning speed of the revolving machining tool is not changed in accordance with the material of the lens to be machined. Applicants thus submit that Wood does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 3.

Claim 4 requires that the spectacle lens is machined by changing the turning speed of the revolving machining tool or by changing both of the turning speed of the revolving machining tool and the turning speed of the lens holding shaft. However, Wood teaches that the turning speed of the revolving machining tool is not changed in accordance with the material of the lens to be machined when the chamfering is performed. Applicants thus submit that Wood does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 4.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Wood does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 3 and 4. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wood in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,074,280 ("Mizuno"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleges that Wood teaches all of the features recited in claim 2 except for setting the speed based on rough machining or finishing machining. The Patent Office introduces Mizuno as allegedly teaching this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Patent Office's allegations. Applicants submit that Mizuno does not remedy the deficiencies of Wood.

Applicants submit that Mizuno teaches that (1) the turning speed of the lens holding shaft is not changed, (2) the turning speed of a grind stone is changed in the first step and second step of mirror polishing, and (3) the turning speed of the grind stone is not changed in the rough machining and finishing machining.

Claim 2 requires that the spectacle lens is machined by changing at least one of the turning speed of the revolving machining tool and/or the turning speed of the lens holding shaft, for rough machining and for finishing machining. Applicants submit that Wood and Mizuno, in combination or alone, do not teach or suggest this feature.

Mizuno teaches that "a first rotational speed" and "a second rotational speed" may be used. See claim 9 of Mizuno. However, Mizuno does not teach or suggest that the first speed and the second speed are different from each other. Instead, Mizuno appears to teach that the relationship between the first speed and the second speed is the same as that in the conventional art. In other words, "the same as the conventional art" refers to the first speed and the second speed being the same speeds. Since the relationship between the first speed and the second speed is the same as that in the conventional art, the description of the relationship between the first speed and the second speed is omitted in Mizuno's disclosure.

Mizuno further teaches that "since the rotational speed is set to be substantially one half of that in the rough and finishing processes, the process face does not melt." See column 9, lines 49-51 of Mizuno. Applicants thus submit that this disclosure in Mizuno

implies that the turning speed during the rough processing and the finishing processing is the same.

Applicants submit that Wood and Mizuno in combination or alone do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 2. In particular, neither Wood nor Mizuno teaches or suggests that the turning speed of the revolving machining tool and/or the turning speed of the lens holding shaft is changed for rough machining and for finishing machining.

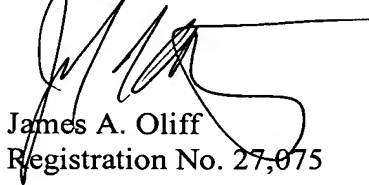
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Wood and/or Mizuno do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 2. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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